



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/717,607	11/21/2003	Pyung-Soo Kim	1793.1007	8193
21171 7590 12/26/2007 STAAS & HALSEY LLP SUITE 700 1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20005			EXAMINER KEEFER, MICHAEL E	
			ART UNIT 2154	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 12/26/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/717,607	Applicant(s) KIM ET AL.	
	Examiner Michael E. Keefer	Art Unit 2154	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 October 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8, 10, 11 and 13-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8, 10, 11 and 13-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is responsive to the Application filed 11/21/2003.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

3. Claims 8, 10, 11, and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The specification includes no mention of a computer-readable storage medium. The Examiner suggests that to overcome this rejection, the Applicant change this wording to a machine-readable medium to match that used on page 15 of the specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

4. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claims 8-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Regarding **claim 8**, which is directed to a message. A message is merely a non-functional data structure. This subject matter is not limited to that which falls within a

statutory category of invention because it is not limited to a process, machine, manufacture, or a composition of matter. Instead, it includes a data structure per se. Non-functional descriptive material does not fall within a statutory category since it is clearly not a series of steps or acts to constitute a process, not a mechanical device or combination of mechanical devices to constitute a machine, not a tangible physical article or object which is some form of matter to be a product and constitute a manufacture, and not a composition of two or more substances to constitute a composition of matter.

Regarding claim 8, the "computer-readable medium," in accordance with Applicant's specification, may be carrier waves or other propagated signals. This subject matter is not limited to that which falls within a statutory category of invention because it is not limited to a process, machine, manufacture, or a composition of matter. Instead, it includes a form of energy. Energy does not fall within a statutory category since it is clearly not a series of steps or acts to constitute a process, not a mechanical device or combination of mechanical devices to constitute a machine, not a tangible physical article or object which is some form of matter to be a product and constitute a manufacture, and not a composition of two or more substances to constitute a composition of matter.

Claim 9, which depends from claim 8, fails to remedy the deficiencies of claim 8 and so is rejected for the same.

Regarding **claim 10**, which is directed to a message. A message is merely a non-functional data structure. This subject matter is not limited to that which falls within

a statutory category of invention because it is not limited to a process, machine, manufacture, or a composition of matter. Instead, it includes a data structure per se. Non-functional descriptive material does not fall within a statutory category since it is clearly not a series of steps or acts to constitute a process, not a mechanical device or combination of mechanical devices to constitute a machine, not a tangible physical article or object which is some form of matter to be a product and constitute a manufacture, and not a composition of two or more substances to constitute a composition of matter.

Regarding claim 10, the "computer-readable medium," in accordance with Applicant's specification, may be carrier waves or other propagated signals. This subject matter is not limited to that which falls within a statutory category of invention because it is not limited to a process, machine, manufacture, or a composition of matter. Instead, it includes a form of energy. Energy does not fall within a statutory category since it is clearly not a series of steps or acts to constitute a process, not a mechanical device or combination of mechanical devices to constitute a machine, not a tangible physical article or object which is some form of matter to be a product and constitute a manufacture, and not a composition of two or more substances to constitute a composition of matter.

Claims 11-13, which depend from claim 10, fail to remedy the deficiencies of claim 10 and so are rejected for the same.

The Examiner notes that the rejections associated with carrier waves may be overcome by amending the specification so that the term "machine readable medium" is

not defined as propagated signals (i.e. carrier waves). Applicant is also cautioned that a mere deletion of the mention of propagated signals will likely result in a new matter by deletion rejection under 35 USC 112 1st paragraph. Therefore, it is suggested that Applicant amends the specification to stated that propgated signals be removed from the defintiion of "machine-readable medium" and a new term "transmission media" be created to define those kinds of media. The Examiner welcomes the Applicant to contact him if Applicant is unsure of how to best amend the specification to overcome this rejection.

The Examiner further notes that claims 8, 10, 11, and 13 are merely claiming a message structure on a machine readable medium. The machine readable medium does not cause a computer to do anything, it merely contains a set of data. One possible way to overcome this rejection would be to have the machine readable medium executing instructions which cause a processor to transmit a message.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ton (US 2002/0067704).

Regarding **claim 1**, Ton discloses:

A method comprising:

transmitting a binding update (BU) message, containing an identifier that indicates whether there is a request for slave home agent information, to a master home agent, in a mobile IPv6 environment, wherein the slave home agent information is information on a slave home agent that neighbors the master home agent. ([0060] discloses a mobile node sending a Mobile IP RRQ (i.e. a binding update message) with an indicator inherent in the Mobile IP message format "A", which indicates whether or not the sender of the message desires an acknowledgement or not. In this case, the acknowledgement, as pointed out in the last sentence of [0060] includes alternate HA addresses (i.e. slave home agent information), thus the desire to receive an acknowledgement is also the desire to receive slave home agent information.)

Regarding **claim 2 as applied to claim 1**, Ton discloses:

wherein when the identifier is set to "1", the identifier indicates that there is a request for the slave home agent information, and when the identifier is set to "0", the identifier indicates that there is no request for the slave home agent information. (A bit value of 1 for the "A" bit in the mobile IP protocol indicates that an acknowledgement is desired. A bit value of 0 for the "A" bit in the mobile IP protocol indicates that an acknowledgement is not desired.)

Regarding **claim 3 as applied to claims 1-2**, Ton discloses:

wherein the BU message is transmitted in a first round of a binding update/binding acknowledgement (BU/BACK) operation. (The RRQ and RRP messages exchanged in [0060] - [0062] are equivalent to BU/BACK messages

as they both serve the same purpose of setting up a tunnel between a HA and MN in a Mobile IP environment)

7. Claims 4-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ton.

Regarding **claim 4**, Ton discloses:

A method comprising: transmitting a binding acknowledgement (BACK) message, containing slave home agent information, to a mobile node, in a mobile IPv6 environment. ([0060] discloses a RRQ (i.e. a BACK message) containing alternate HA information (slave home agent information))

Regarding **claim 5 as applied to claim 4**, Ton discloses:

wherein the slave home agent information comprises:

an identifier that indicates whether the slave home agent information will be transmitted; ([0060] discloses that error code 0 is sent when alternate HA information is being sent, [0063] discloses that a non-zero error code is sent when alternate HA information is not included.)

a number of slave home agents; and ([0060] discloses that the Mobile IP Alternate HA extension is included, which must inherently include a size (i.e. the number of agents) in order to allow proper processing in an IP environment)

at least one slave home agent address. ([0060] discloses that addresses of alternate HAs are sent.)

Regarding **claim 6 as applied to claims 4-5**, Ton discloses:

wherein when the identifier is set to "0", the identifier indicates that the slave home agent information will not be transmitted, and when the identifier is

set to a predetermined value other than "0", the identifier indicates that the slave home agent information will be transmitted. ([0060] discloses that error code 0 is sent when alternate HA information is being sent, [0063] discloses that a non-zero error code is sent when alternate HA information is not included.)

Regarding **claim 7 as applied to claim 4**, Ton discloses:

wherein the BACK message is transmitted in a first round of a BU/BACK operation. (The RRQ and RRP messages exchanged in [0060] - [0062] are equivalent to BU/BACK messages as they both serve the same purpose of setting up a tunnel between a HA and MN in a Mobile IP environment)

8. Claims 8-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ton.

Regarding **claim 8**, Ton discloses:

A binding update (BU) message in a mobile IPv6 environment, containing an identifier that indicates whether there is a request for slave home agent information, wherein the slave home agent information is information on a slave home agent that neighbors a master home agent that receives the BU message. ([0060] discloses a mobile node sending a Mobile IP RRQ (i.e. a binding update message) with an indicator inherent in the Mobile IP message format "A", which indicates whether or not the sender of the message desires an acknowledgement or not. In this case, the acknowledgement, as pointed out in the last sentence of [0060] includes alternate HA addresses (i.e. slave home agent information), thus the desire to receive an acknowledgement is also the desire to receive slave home agent information.)

Regarding **claim 9 as applied to claim 8**, Ton discloses:

The BU message of claim 8, wherein when the identifier is set to "1", the identifier indicates that there is a request for the slave home agent information, and when the identifier is set to "0", the identifier indicates that there is no request for the slave home agent information. (A bit value of 1 for the "A" bit in the mobile IP protocol indicates that an acknowledgement is desired. A bit value of 0 for the "A" bit in the mobile IP protocol indicates that an acknowledgement is not desired.)

9. Claims 10-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ton.

Regarding **claim 10**, Ton discloses:

A binding acknowledgement (BACK) message in a mobile IPv6 environment, containing slave home agent information. ([0060] discloses a RRQ (i.e. a BACK message) containing alternate HA information (slave home agent information))

Regarding **claim 11 as applied to claim 10**, Ton discloses:

wherein the slave home agent information comprises:

an identifier that indicates whether the slave home agent information will be transmitted; ([0060] discloses that error code 0 is sent when alternate HA information is being sent, [0063] discloses that a non-zero error code is sent when alternate HA information is not included.)

a number of slave home agents; and ([0060] discloses that the Mobile IP Alternate HA extension is included, which must inherently include a size (i.e. the number of agents) in order to allow proper processing in an IP environment)

at least one slave home agent address. ([0060] discloses that addresses of alternate HAs are sent.)

Regarding **claim 12 as applied to claims 10-11**, Ton discloses:

wherein when the identifier is set to "0", the identifier indicates that the slave home agent information will not be transmitted, and when the identifier is set to a predetermined value other than "0", the identifier indicates that the slave home agent information will be transmitted. ([0060] discloses that error code 0 is sent when alternate HA information is being sent, [0063] discloses that a non-zero error code is sent when alternate HA information is not included.)

Regarding **claim 13 as applied to claims 10-11**, Ton discloses:

wherein slave home agent addresses are arranged in a predetermined order according to their priority levels. (Since the home agent is load balanced, the home agents sent to the mobile node will all be higher priority than the existing node.)

10. Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ton.

Regarding **claim 14**, Ton discloses:

A mobile node that carries out binding update (BU) in a mobile IPv6 environment, the mobile node comprising:

a BU message transmission unit that transmits a BU message, containing an identifier that indicates whether there is a request for slave home agent information, to a master home agent; ([0060] discloses a RRQ (i.e. a BACK message) containing alternate HA information (slave home agent information))

a binding acknowledgement (BACK) message reception unit that receives a BACK message, containing the slave home agent information, from the master home agent; and ([0062] discloses that the response to the request is received.)

a slave home agent information storing unit that stores the slave home agent information contained in the BACK message, wherein if the BACK message has not been received from the master home agent at a predetermined moment of time, the BU message transmission unit transmits the BU message to a new master home agent using the slave home agent information stored in the slave home agent information storing unit. ([0062] discloses storing the list, [0063]-[0064] discloses using the list to send a new request if the primary HA fails.)

11. Claim 15 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ton.

Regarding **claim 15**, Ton discloses:

A home agent that carries out binding update (BU) in a mobile IPv6 environment, the home agent comprising:

a BU message reception unit that receives a BU message, containing an identifier that indicates whether there is a request for slave home agent

information, from a mobile node; ([0060] discloses the HA receiving the RRQ message.)

a slave home agent information transmission determination unit that determines whether to transmit the slave home agent information, requested by the mobile node, to the mobile node; ([0063] discloses determining whether to send the information or not)

a binding acknowledgement (BACK) message generation unit which generates a BACK message, containing the slave home agent information, if the slave home agent information transmission determination unit determines to transmit the slave home agent information, and generates an ordinary BACK message if the slave home agent information transmission determination unit determines not to transmit the slave home agent information; and ([0060] and [0064] disclose sending acknowledgements with and without the information)

a BACK message transmission unit that transmits the BACK message created by the BACK message generation unit to the mobile node. ([0060] and [0064] disclose sending acknowledgements with and without the information)

12. Claims 16-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ton.
Regarding **claim 16**, Ton discloses:

A method of discovering a home agent address in a mobile IPv6 environment, comprising:

inserting a slave home agent address information request into a first binding update (BU) message; and transmitting the first BU message to a master

home agent. transmitting a binding update (BU) message, containing an identifier that indicates whether there is a request for slave home agent information, to a master home agent, in a mobile IPv6 environment, wherein the slave home agent information is information on a slave home agent that neighbors the master home agent. ([0060] discloses a mobile node sending a Mobile IP RRQ (i.e. a binding update message) with an indicator inherent in the Mobile IP message format "A", which indicates whether or not the sender of the message desires an acknowledgement or not. In this case, the acknowledgement, as pointed out in the last sentence of [0060] includes alternate HA addresses (i.e. slave home agent information), thus the desire to receive an acknowledgement is also the desire to receive slave home agent information.)

Regarding claim 17 as applied to claim 16, Ton discloses:

upon not receiving a binding acknowledgement (BACK) message from the master home agent at a predetermined time, inserting the slave home agent address information request into a second BU message; and transmitting the second BU message to a slave home agent, wherein the slave home agent was identified in a previous BACK message, which included slave home agent information, and which was received from the master home agent in response to a previous BU message that included the slave home agent address information request. ([0063]-[0065])

Regarding claim 18 as applied to claim 16, Ton discloses:

wherein the first BU message comprises a home agent address request identification field to indicate whether slave home agent information is needed. (As cited in claim 16, the 'A' field serves this purpose)

Regarding claim 19 as applied to claims 16-17, Ton discloses:

wherein the second BU message comprises a home address request identification field to indicate whether the slave home agent information is needed. (As cited in claim 16, the 'A' field serves this purpose).

Regarding claim 20 as applied to claim 16, Ton discloses:

receiving a binding acknowledgement (BACK) message from the master home agent. ([0060] discloses receiving a RRQ i.e. a BACK message)

Regarding claim 21 as applied to claims 16 and 20, Ton discloses:

wherein the BACK message comprises a status field to indicate whether slave home agent information is included. (The error code field serves this purpose. [0060] and [0063])

Regarding claim 22 as applied to claims 16 and 20-21, Ton discloses:

wherein the BACK message comprises slave home agent information when the status field indicates that the slave home agent information is included, and wherein the BACK message does not comprise slave home agent information when the status field indicates that the slave home agent information is not included. (the extra header is included when the error status is 0, otherwise it is not. [0060] and [0063])

Regarding claim 23 as applied to claims 16 and 20-22, Ton discloses:

wherein the BACK message comprises a number-of-slave home agents field to indicate a number of candidate slave home agents of higher priority levels. ([0060] discloses that the Mobile IP Alternate HA extension is included, which must inherently include a size (i.e. the number of agents) in order to allow proper processing in an IP environment)

Regarding **claim 24 as applied to claims 16 and 20-23**, Ton discloses:

wherein the number-of-slave home agents field includes the number of candidate slave home agents of higher priority levels when the status field indicates that the slave home agent information is included, and wherein the number-of-slave home agents field does not include the number of candidate slave home agents of higher priority levels when the status field indicates that the slave home agent information is not included. (the extra header is included when the error status is 0, otherwise it is not. [0060] and [0063])

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

13. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

14. Claims 25-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ton as applied to claims 16 and 20-23 above, and further in view of Ton.

Regarding **claims 25-27**, Ton discloses:

wherein the BACK message further comprises a home agent address field to indicate addresses of the candidate slave home agents. (the Mobile IP Extension Field contains addresses, [0060])

wherein the home agent address field includes the addresses of the candidate slave home agents when the status field indicates that the slave home agent information is included, and wherein the home agent address field does not include the addresses of the candidate slave home agents when the status field indicates that the slave home agent information is not included. (the extra header is included when the error status is 0, otherwise it is not. [0060] and [0063])

Ton discloses all the limitations of claims 25-27, but, does not disclose in the same embodiment the ordering of alternative home agents based upon priority, or the selection of home agents to be used by the mobile node being based upon priority.

Ton however, does teach a system for load balancing home agent requests between mobile nodes by compiling the information about the current busyness of nearby home agents, and suggesting the use of alternate home agents if the current agent is busier. See [0045]-[0048].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the redundancy system disclosed by Ton with the idea of load balancing by sending the request to the least busy nearby home agent as taught by Ton in order to allow the mobile node to choose a new home agent in a load balanced way in the event that the primary home agent is unreachable.

Response to Arguments

15. Applicant's arguments filed 10/22/2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

16. Applicant argues that the amendments to claims 8, 10, 11, and 13 do not overcome the rejection of these claims under 35 USC 101. The Examiner has elaborated upon the reasons for this in the above section. Additionally, Applicant's amendment to these claims has resulted in a new ground of rejection for these claims, as noted above.

17. Applicant argues that Ton does not disclose any of the limitations of at least claim 1. (Applicant argues the same limitations are missing from the other independent claims, therefore the Examiner will address such arguments here.) Applicant asserts that Ton has no identifier which indicates whether there is a request for slave home agent information. Applicant also asserts that the information returned in the acknowledgement is not about a neighboring slave home agent.

18. As stated in the rejection of record, a binding update message inherently contains the "A" field, which indicates whether the sender wants an acknowledgement or not. In Ton, a sender of the binding update message would know that the acknowledgement contains extra information (i.e. the slave home agent information), therefore, if an acknowledgement was desired, then this is also inherently the desire of the sender of the BU message to receive this slave home agent information.

19. The slave home agent (i.e. HA2), must be neighboring the home agent, as in figures 2 and 3, these devices send messages to each other, therefore they are inherently neighboring.

Conclusion

20. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael E. Keefer whose telephone number is (571) 270-1591. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 9am-5pm.

Application/Control Number:
10/717,607
Art Unit: 2154

Page 19

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nathan Flynn can be reached on (571) 272-1915. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

NATHAN FLYNN
SUPERVISOR
PATENT EXAMINER

MEK 12/19/2007